adhesives for the construction of disposable soft goods. The adhesive compositions include a SIS copolymer containing at least about 25% styrene, a compatible tackifying resin, a plasticizing oil and an effective amount of a stabilizer. The adhesive compositions described therein are pressure sensitive in nature due to the inclusion of a plasticizing oil. The Alper disclosure employs more tackifying resin than polymer. It also discloses tackifying resins having softening temperatures of 60-140 °C. This is also exemplified in Example 2, where 35 parts of an SIS block copolymer (Sol T 193B), 40 parts of hydrogenated dicyclopentadiene resin (Escorez 5340), 10 parts of aromatic reinforcing resin (Endex 155), 15 parts of naphthenic/paraffinic mineral oil, and antioxidant were used. This is done to achieve a good heat resistant adhesive.

In contrast, the present invention differs from Alper et al. in that Claims 1, 20 and 22 all recite adhesives wherein said total tackifying resin having a glass transition temperature of greater than 65 °C is less than total polymer content, while Claim 30 recites an adhesive wherein said total tackifying resin having a softening temperature of greater than 140 °C is less than total polymer content. See Examples 1-10.

Thus, Alper et al. does not anticipate the present invention and Applicants respectfully requested that the 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) rejection should be withdrawn.

B. § 103 (a) Rejection

As discussed above, the present invention differs from Alper et al. in that Claims 1, 20 and 22 all recite adhesives wherein said total tackifying resin having a glass transition temperature of greater than 65 °C is less than total polymer content, while Claim 30 recites an adhesive wherein said total tackifying resin having a softening temperature of greater than 140 °C is less than total polymer content. See Examples 1-13. In addition, the good heat resistance is preserved. See test results in Tables I-VIII. There is no teaching or motivation in Alper et al., which teaches the use of more tackifying resin than polymer, to arrive at the present invention of more polymer than tackifying resin. In this regard, Alper et al. teaches away from the present invention. Applicants respectfully request that rejection based on § 103 (a) should be withdrawn.

C. Conclusion

In conclusion, the adhesive compositions of the present invention are novel and non-obvious in view of Alper et al. It is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested and allowance and passage to issue of Claims 1-30 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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